

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 MC-02 ACDA-05

EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 IGA-01 EURE-00

/057 W

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P R 031532Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4350

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

OSAF PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-16 COPRODUCTION

REF: A. BRUSSELS 5920 B. BRUSSELS 6002

1. BOLAND, IN CHARGE OF INDUSTRIAL COPRODUCTION MATTERS IN
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HAS CALLED EMBASSY RELATIVE
TO QUESTION RAISED IN REFTEL A PARA 5B. HE POINTS OUT THAT
DATA PROVIDED TO BELGIAN AVIONICS INDUSTRY BY WESTINGHOUSE
AND HUGHES IS INADEQUATE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING BIDS. BELGIAN
INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (SYBELEC) HAVE ASKED THEIR
GOVERNMENT FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO TREAT AUGUST 22
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING BIDS FOR RADAR COMPONENT
COPRODUCTION. THEY CAN EITHER DECLINE TO BID ON THE
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GROUND THAT THE AVAILABLE DATA IS INSUFFICIENT, OR

THEY CAN MAKE ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING THE MISSING DETAILS AND SUBMIT BIDS WITH THE RESERVATION THAT MORE COMPLETE DATA MAY REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS TO THEIR BIDS. BOLAND IS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND WHICHEVER COURSE IS AGREEABLE TO THE USG; HIS CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT THE BELGIAN INDUSTRY RESPONSE MUST NOT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR BELGIAN INDUSTRY TO OBTAIN ITS FULL SHARE OF RADAR COPRODUCTION.

2. BOLAND SAID THAT ONE ELEMENT OF PROBLEM IS THAT HUGHES IS UNWILLING TO PROVIDE DETAILED DATA ON RADAR COMPONENTS BECAUSE OF FEAR THAT BELGIAN FIRM ACEC, WHOLLY-OWNED WESTINGHOUSE SUBSIDIARY, WILL RELAY THIS DATA TO WESTINGHOUSE HEADQUARTERS. TIME WILL OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, BUT NOT BEFORE AUGUST 22 DEADLINE FOR BELGIAN BIDS. BOLAND THINKS SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO DESIGNATE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ACEC EMPLOYEES TO DEAL WITH HUGHES DATA ON A CLASSIFIED BASIS, WITH BELGIAN SECURITY APPARATUS OVERSEEING SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

3. BOLAND SAID THAT PROBLEM BETWEEN SYBELEC AND SIEMENS/BELGIUM (REFTEL B) INVOLVES SYBELEC MEMBERS' FEAR THAT COPRODUCTION WORK SECURED BY SIEMENS WILL END UP BEING PERFORMED IN GERMANY, NOT BELGIUM. WE REMARKED THAT THERE SHOULD BE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF THAT BEING A PROBLEM, SINCE MOU IS BETWEEN USG AND FOUR-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM.

4. PLEASE ADDRESS BOLAND'S POINTS IN REPLYING TO REFTELS. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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